



## GO GREEN! NEWSLETTER

### 350.org Wants You to Have a Party!

**The Goal:** 350.org wants to raise awareness globally about the number 350. Why is this number important? 350 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is the number estimated by scientists that is a safe limit for humanity. Currently we are above our safe zone (350) at 392 ppm. This number is rising by 2 parts per million every year.

**This Year's Event:** On 10/10/10 350.org invites anyone and everyone to join or create a "Global Work Party" where the focus of the party is helping the environment by working together on local projects.

For more ideas or to join the campaign and start your own event visit the website at [350.org](http://350.org).

**Events in the Area:** On 10/10/10 join your Lansing neighbors at Foster Park at 10am for the kick-off!

**10am-4pm:** Eco-Expo, Live Music, Lansing Bike Co-op bike build, and sign up for volunteering.

**12pm-4pm:** Urban farming at Urbandale Farm. Sign up for a 2-hr shift at Foster Park

**4:30pm:** Party time! Join your peers at Harrison Road House to celebrate!



### October 2010

#### The Chevrolet Volt: What's the Deal?

In November of this year, General Motors will be releasing its' newest electric car: the Chevrolet Volt. The Volt runs on battery power for up to 40 miles, with a back up gasoline engine that allows it to run another 300 miles. Just before its release, the Michigan Public Service Commission approved an experimental electric vehicle rate, which may be ideal for owner's of the new Volt. There are peak hours in which the Volt should not be charged. Charging at night is ideal, and lower energy bills could result. The Volt has virtually no emissions and can save you big at the gas pump. Not only are they environmentally friendly, they will help us in

our effort to become less dependent on foreign oil and fossil



### Go to Lowe's to Recycle!

Beginning the month, Lowe's will install recycling stations in over 1,700 stores. Come to Lowe's to recycle rechargeable batteries, old cell phones, CFLs, and plastic shopping bags.

[Click here](#) to learn more.



### Recycle Rama Results

Recycle Rama, which took place on September 25th, was a huge success! Here are some numbers of recycled items from the event:

**Grease:** 69 gallons (414 lbs)

**Holiday Lights:** over 176 sets

**Appliances:** 16,700 lbs

**Mercury thermostats:** 17 items

**Clothing:** 2,500 lbs

**Air conditioners:** 57 units (2280 lbs)

**Great work Lansing!**

### Michigan's Newest Claim to Fame

Michigan has several claims to fame already, but we are ready to add a new one. Massachusetts-based A123 Systems will be opening a new facility in Livonia. A123 Systems produces lithium ion automotive batteries, the batteries necessary to run electric vehicles. This new production facility has already aided in hiring 300 workers, and is the largest of its type in North America. Several thousand more jobs are expected in coming years as a second facility is planned to open in Romulus. A123 is a leading supplier of lithium ion batteries for trucks and buses. The company realizes that Michigan, being the hub of the automotive industry in the United States, is an ideal place to be, especially with the up-and-coming electric vehicles.

### Greater Lansing Eco Summit

Join Greenation at the Greater Lansing Eco Summit October 22- 23 at the People's Church in East Lansing. Both days will include exciting workshops and panels discussions focused on green economy leadership, political advocacy, creating pathways to green employment in Michigan, merging sustainability with lifestyle, and enhancing Michigan's green potential. For more information see [www.ourgreenation.org](http://www.ourgreenation.org) or call 248.910.2741.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [gogreen@lansingmi.gov](mailto:gogreen@lansingmi.gov) or call 517-483-4597.

## 2010 CATA Clean Commute Challenge Best Ever!

This year's Challenge yielded the most commutes logged ever, and doubled the participation from previous years. In the campus competition, Central Michigan University was named Cleanest Commuting College in Michigan and Lansing's Everett High School was the winner to of the High School Challenge, successfully reducing the number of cars in their parking lot by 39%. Everett was awarded with a unique trophy created from recycled materials by local artists. Congratulations to all those who participated in this year's challenge!



### Save Energy or Save Money? Try Both!

Saving energy is not only beneficial for the environment, it's beneficial for the pocketbook too! Take a look at the following checklist and see how you can conserve energy in your home.

- ◆ Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll save energy and avoid scalding your hands.
- ◆ Check if your water heater has an insulating blanket. An insulating blanket will pay for itself in one year or less!
- ◆ Survey your incandescent lights for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) or light-emitting diodes (LEDs). CFLs can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescents. The best targets are 60-100 W bulbs used several hours a day.
- ◆ **Turn off your computer monitor** when not in use for more than 20 minutes, and turn off both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your computer for more than 2 hours.
- ◆ During winter, **open curtains** on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
- ◆ **Clean or replace filters** in your furnace, air conditioner, and heat pump.

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### Have a 'green' autumn!

While the colors normally associated with autumn are not necessarily green, there are plenty of "green" ways to celebrate the harvest season. Take a family trip to your local apple orchard! Use natural and organic decorations instead of paper and plastic ones to make your household more festive! And when it comes time to dress up, use items from around the house or go to the local thrift store!



### Seed Saving Workshop

On Wednesday, October 6th, come to a seed saving workshop to learn about saving seeds. Collecting seeds from your favorite heirlooms is a thrifty way to get your preferred flavors year after year. You can also be sure to have a good supply of the varieties that did well in your garden. The workshop will take place at the Resource Center and Demonstration Garden in Foster Park.



## CLIMATE CORNER



Construction begins this fall on Michigan's largest wind farm. Invenergy will be erecting 125 giant windmills to spread over 30,000 acres in Gratiot County. When finished, the wind farm will generate 200 megawatts of electricity, or enough to power 54,000 homes. The company signed a 20 year agreement with DTE Energy to provide renewable energy which will contribute four percent of the utility's total power generation. Furthermore, DTE has acquired rights to 80,000 more acres in Huron County, in the thumb of Michigan, for future large scale wind power projects. Wind power is one of many alternative sources of energy that can be used to lessen our reliance on fossil fuels. [Click here](#) to learn more.